

this: never stop showing respect and love for those people who you say are dear and close to you."

Dad always wanted us kids to get an education, because he wasn't given that opportunity, so we all did. This meant the world to him, when they announced our names as we graduated in High School and college.

My father was a very giving individual, and never hesitated to apply "mi casa es su casa"—my home is your home, and we always had room for our friends to sit at the table and eat.

When he coached baseball he had team players that mom would make a sack lunch and take time to manage to do some mending on fifteen to twenty baseball uniforms.

Last but not least there was always room for honesty, integrity and putting 110% at your place of employment.

I will truly miss my father's presence but he still remains in spirit. His wisdom will be carried from generation to generation.

Dad, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for being the best father you could be doing all you have done for us and having a vision for all humanity, without reservation.—Sabra Baca

What I remembered the most about my Dad, he was a good father to us. He was really strict when we were growing up but now that I am a mother, I know why he did it.

When we were growing up, he loved family time. We would always eat together as a family, and at night he would make all of us kids kneel down around the bed to pray the Rosary. No matter how tired he was he always would make us pray the Rosary as a family. My dad loved the Lord and served him!

He would get up every morning and call me and say "Feliz"—that was his nickname for me—"what are you doing today?" He never failed, he would call each one of us kids. No matter how busy he was he took the time every morning to call us every single day and sometimes two or three times a day. I will miss that special call from my dad. Dad, I love you very much and will miss you. I know you are looking down on us but when I get that special call, I know I will be up there with you. Love you, your daughter.—Ruppie Arreola.

My dad—the things that I remember as a youth about my Pop was he would get up to breakfast. Mom would make eggs, beans, chili, every morning.

He then would go to work, an eight hour job as a forklift operator, while I went to school.

I'd come home from school and do my homework, then my chores, wait till Pop came home from work. He would kiss Mom, put his lunch pail down, go wash his hands.

Then we would all be sitting at the supper table. Food smelled so good, chile, pappas, beans, noodles, meat loaf. Oh yea, tortillas, Kool-Aid to drink. Dad would bless the food. Head right for the green chile and tortillas. Then we would start passing around the food.

Right after dinner, no TV. He and I and Mom, sometimes Ronnie, would shag baseballs. I would pitch to him, then he would hit me a ton of ground balls, then he would pitch batting practice, if we had enough daylight to run bases. Wow I was happy. I had this black mitt that he bought me, I ate, sleep with it. Then we would call it a day. He would rest for a while then go pump gas at a service station called Far-go till 10:00 p.m. My pop. Wow.—Ricky Baca

□ 2130

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULSHOF). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), and I thank her for organizing this Special Order this evening to talk about an issue that is not getting enough attention, the issue of mental health. It is an issue that needs so much attention, because, as the speakers tonight have pointed out, we have a lot of work to do.

We talk about health care a great deal here, but there is an aspect of health care that does not get much talk. Many of us can remember a day when we could not talk about cancer or about AIDS, how many people suffered; people who did not come forward for treatment because of those stigmas. Mental illness is really the last great health stigma. We need to continue this fight, to fight the ignorance, first of all, to fight the ignorance with information. All of us can think of Americans who have struggled with mental illness, whether it was Abraham Lincoln or William Styron or countless others.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, we do not need to look that far. All of us, every one of us knows someone who has had a mental health problem. In fact, 50 million Americans will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives. Those Americans deserve our respect, our help, and our understanding. But because of the stigma associated with mental illness, the job is harder. We not only have to work to pass protections for those who suffer from mental illness, protections like a strong Patients' Bill of Rights, parity in insurance coverage for serious mental illness, guidelines for the use of restraints in mental health facilities; in addition, we have to educate people. We have to educate them about the misperceptions that are associated with mental illness, Mr. Speaker, to assure everyone that Americans can and should get the mental help they need to lead productive lives, whether they are suffering from depression, bipolar illness, or schizophrenia, because only 20 percent of people seek treatment for mental health conditions, and it is a tragedy. We must create a climate to change that. We need to help stress that early intervention, continued research at NIH, and the National Institutes of Mental Health will help lead to better treatment and a cure for mental illness.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about the violence in schools, and, of course, there are many aspects to that. There are many facets to the violence that we

have seen. It raises questions about our parenting, about our teaching, about our school administering, about our policing. It raises questions about almost every aspect of our society. But one thing that it clearly cries out for is more attention to the mental health of our children in school. School counselors are not just those who advise students on college admission. We should have counselors in ample supply in all of the schools to deal with the tough growing up problems, including mental health problems that our students experience. Most of all, we need to remind people that mental illness affects people and it affects families.

So I am proud to join tonight with the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) to continue to call attention to this important subject. I am pleased to join the gentlewoman in recognizing the courage of those who are living productive lives with mental illness.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman, first of all, for his leadership and adding to the discussion on the floor, which really is adding to the national debate that people are not living alone with mental illness or mental health needs, nor are their children. I thank the distinguished gentleman for all that he is doing, and I think that we can collectively do this in a bipartisan way to take the stigma, the harshness out of people who truly need help.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is very eloquent and has been very eloquent on the subject this evening, as she always is on every subject.

NIGHTSIDE CHAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am back for a nightside chat. I have three subjects which I would like to cover tonight. The first one is a sad situation that has occurred out in the State of Colorado, a very tragic situation.

The second that I think is very important for us to discuss, a subject which I addressed just a couple of days ago but, which subsequent to my discussions, I have heard some comments on this House Floor that are, in my opinion, discouraging, comments that I think are off base, comments that I think are not based on reality, reality beyond the Potomac River, reality beyond this large city of government out here in the East. I want to address the death tax, once again.